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ing, to succeed Professor Alexander J. Wurtz, who has been made research professor in the new research division of the institute.

DR. J. A. GUNTON has been appointed head of the chemistry department in Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky. Dr. Gunton recently received his doctorate of philosophy from the University of Illinois.

DR. CLIFFORD S. LEONARD, for the past year fellow in chemistry to Sweden on the American-Scandinavian Foundation, has completed his research at the Karoline and Nobel Institutes of Stockholm and has been appointed research instructor of pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. R. H. ADERS PLIMMER has been appointed by the Senate of London University to the university chair of chemistry, tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, beginning with the new year. At present he is head of the biochemical department of the Rowett Research Institute at the University of Aberdeen.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### SEARCH FOR THE RECORD OF ROBERT HANHAM COLLYER, M. D.

DR. COLLYER was registered as practicing medicine in London as late as the year 1878. After this it is believed he returned to America. Long previous to this, namely, in 1867, he had announced in the *Anthropological Review* a very important discovery,—a prehistoric jaw-bone of great geologic age. Of this Mr. J. Reid Moir of Ipswich, England, writes:

I am of the opinion that if the Foxhall jaw-bone could be reexamined now, it would be possible to say with considerable certainty as to whether it was derived from the Crag, or not. But, unfortunately, the specimen cannot now be found, and advertisements placed by me in various newspapers and other journals have failed to bring it to light. Owing to the kindness of the acting registrar to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, I have been informed that Dr. Robert Hanham Collyer was registered in England on the 23rd of

June, 1868, with the qualification M.D., Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1839. His application for registration is dated the 23rd of October, 1867, when he gave his address as 40, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood. At the time of his registration he was at 1, Norman Terrace, Stockwell, which he subsequently changed to 199, Brompton Road, S. W., which was his registered address in 1878, in which year his name lapsed from the Medical Register in consequence of this address having been found to be inaccurate by means of an inquiry under Section 14 of the Medical Act. According to the American Medical Directory, the college from which, apparently, he obtained his degree is described as the Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, an institution which is classed with those which are extinct—or merged with other colleges. There is reason to believe that Collyer returned eventually to America, taking the Foxhall jaw-bone with him. It would seem unlikely—in view of the importance he attached to the specimen—that no instructions would be left by him for the preservation of the specimen after his death, and I hope that the publicity now given to this matter may result in the Foxhall jaw-bone being once more brought to light.

There are several clues to aid our search. First the records and graduates of the Pittsfield Medical College. Some member of Dr. Collyer's class may have left descendants. Or, some member of his family may recall him. Or, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences may find letters from Dr. Collyer to Dr. Samuel G. Morton, the distinguished anthropologist of that institution.

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### THE PROTECTION OF MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS

REFERRING to Professor Long's suggested method for protecting microscopic sections from mechanical injury in *SCIENCE* of October 7th., may I suggest the following, which will remedy the difficulty without resorting to the use of a thin film of parlodion.

Instead of using the *natural Canada* balsam for mounting (which does remain fluid for years), use balsam prepared by heating the